



MEETING MINUTES / 16 JUNE 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Sarg, Farley, Armbruster, Carroll, Corsa, McMullen, Newstadt, Seppala, Showell, Smith, Weir, and Kirby

Excused Absences: Corsa (health), and Lardizzone (organization duty), and Newman (duty)
Unexcused Absences: Hampton

Guest(s): Gloria Smith

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Pause for moment of silence. Thanked commissioners for emails recognizing Beau Biden's passing. Commissioners Weir, Armbruster, and Smith attended various funeral events. If a commissioner wishes to provide donations the address/contact information will be forwarded.

MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made and accepted to approve the previous meeting minutes. Commissioner Armbruster requested that excused absences be listed with a reason (for the absence). Director Kirby will add to future minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

VAMC-Wilmington – Genny Yelland:

Ms. Yelland had duties at the center so Director Kirby read her email. The Wilmington VAMC Open House is Monday, 29 June / 1200 – 1500. It will be followed by a Town Hall meeting at 1500. Veterans and families are encouraged to attend. The new Sussex CBOC site search continued and two areas were empty lots versus facilities.

- (Carroll) Does the Bebee medical facility have room for the CBOC?
- (Sarg) The Bebee site is being considered

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson:

There were 145 residents, following 4 demises, there are 141 residents. Twenty-three have dementia and the home can only handle 25. Mr. Peterson invited the commissioners to the admissions meeting to learn the process. The admissions board focuses on multiple factors with an emphasis on the medications needed to support the residents. Due to incidents with the Wilmington VAMC, telephone calls were made to Washington, DC to gain local support. First, an MS resident was initially refused VA treatment although they qualified. Following the telephone call the resident was accepted for treatment but should have been initially. Second, a resident needed a new power wheelchair and the VA agreed to replace it but they did not follow through. They did following the Washington, DC telephone call. Financially, the home is seeking \$70 - \$100K for additional equipment that the Home of the Brave and other community veterans can access. The home would benefit from a \$100K specialty bed but have decided to rent the bed for less costs. The bus is still down and needs warranty work.

- (Newstadt) Is there any word on new construction?

Nothing without national legislation to support. Seeking sponsorship for Adult Day Care which could involve a building addition.

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

The home is close to groundbreaking for the women's facility and they are working a fixed rate mortgage, 20 years, from a local community bank. The building will be co-located with the men's facility with four bedrooms, five bathrooms, and room for eight occupants (including children). The men's facility has one vacancy and the women's facility has four vacancies with no children.

- (Farley) Requested homeless situation information so he could address legislation during a future meeting.

On 31 October the women's facility lease expires and will be renewed "month-to-month" until the new facility is complete.

- (Armbruster) How does the home handle males with children?

The home does not accept males with children so they are referred to other agencies.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

No comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:**Veteran Transportation, Gary Morris (DE Transit Corp):**

Mr. Morris reminded the commission about the Veteran Transportation forum is scheduled for Thursday, 25 June / 1300 at the Smyrna Armed Forces Readiness Center. He discussed the difference between a fixed route (recurring stops) and paratransit (individualized stops). The forum will focus on Sussex transportation needs but understands the need throughout the state. Emphasized the need for commissioners to attend the forum.

- (Sarg) Asked that travel reimbursement information be available for attendees at the forum.

Operation Stand Down, Liz Byers-Jiron

Operation Stand Down is scheduled for Friday, 25 September at the American Legion Post 2 (Dover). Volunteers and financial assistance is still needed as the focus is on "all" veterans, not just homeless veterans.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:**

There were approximately 700 attendees during the Memorial Day ceremony. Director Kirby confirmed that paper records are backed up electronically at each cemetery.

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Corsa:

No report.

Personnel, Director Kirby:

Congressman Carney is hosting three forums (each county) to address veteran benefit concerns the the commission's veteran service officers will assist.

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Corsa

No report.

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen

Section 1405 (Interment) submitted to legislation, House Bill 170.

Section 8720 (Commission Composition) submitted to Secretary of State for review.

Section 8725 (Memorials) Rep. Jaques will sponsor.

House Bill 94 (Child Identifier) will be presented.

Finance and Logistics, Commissioner Newman

No report.

Commemorative Affairs, Commissioner Showell

Commissioner Showell will establish an after action meeting with the chairperson and director to discuss the Memorial Day ceremonies. The Veterans Day schedule will be available by September.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

Presented a wreath during the Dover Memorial Day ceremony. Attended the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force's scholarship board in Washington DC provided thousands of dollars to eligible Air Force enlisted member's children.

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

Participating in "Boys State" events at Wesley College with 180 state-wide high school juniors. The auxiliary will ho "Girls State," same premise in two weeks.

Commissioner Weir (AMVETS)

Attended Seaford Memorial Day event, Beau Biden's funeral, and a Flag Day event.

Commissioner Smith (Del Vets)

Attended National Guard event honoring combat veterans and mentioned golf tournament for veterans at Brandywine Golf Course on 24 July.

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)

Not present.

Commissioner Newstadt (JWV)

Attended installation of officers luncheon on 24 May. Organization members attended the Intrepid (New York) and the Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington, DC).

Commissioner Farley (MCL)

Attended organization annual convention installed new members.

Chairman Sarg (MOAA)

Organization is lobbying to minimize defense bill cuts.

Commissioner Carroll (MOPH)

Attended the Memorial Day ceremony at the Delaware Bridge. The organization's national convention is 4 – 9 August in Las Vegas, NV.

Commissioner Seppala (MOWW)

Attended both Memorial Day ceremonies and was appointed state commander on 9 June.

Commissioner Newman (VFW)
Not present.

Commissioner Corsa (VVA)
Not present.

Commissioner Hampton (At Large)
Not present.

Commissioner Showell (At Large)
The DANG return home ceremony was rescheduled to 11 July. The Delaware Joining Forces meeting is 25 Jun at the readiness center and the Delaware Joining Forces meeting is 16 July at the Smyrna readiness center.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Code Revisions (OPEN)

Code Section 8720 (Commission Composition): The Secretary of State is reviewing the code.

Code Section 8725 (Memorials): Director Kirby forwarded the proposal to Representative Jaques for sponsorship.

Code Section 1405 (Interment): Is House Bill 170.

By-Laws (OPEN)

The commissioner received copies of the By-Laws to review and will report during the July meeting.

Strategic Plan (CLOSED)

See above.

S.W. Asia / OIF-OEF Memorial **Kent County Memorial Park (OPEN)**

Commissioner Hampton was not present to brief.

S.W. Asia / OIF-OEF Memorial **Legislative Hall (OPEN)**

The commission is interested in an 11 September unveiling date. Director Kirby will ask Sipple Memorials if the memorial will be complete by that date. .

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing introduced.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 21 July 2015 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE